

Libyan military team off to Moscow

BEIRUT (R) — A top-level Libyan military delegation left Tripoli Sunday on a visit to the Soviet Union, the official Libyan news agency reported. It said the team included chiefs of staff of the air force and navy but gave no details of the visit or how long the delegation would stay in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is Libya's chief arms supplier and the two countries are linked by a cooperation and friendship treaty. The visit comes amid tense relations between Libya and the United States over the war in Chad. Libyan Foreign Secretary Abdul Ati Obeidi last week summoned the Soviet ambassador to brief him on the situation. U.S. defence officials have said the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Eisenhower, with several destroyers and support craft, is cruising in the Mediterranean off the Gulf of Sirte on Libya's coast.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Libya seeks Security Council session

BEIRUT (R) — Libya asked the United Nations Security Council Sunday to meet to protect what it called a flagrant threat by the United States, and denied military involvement in Chad. The official Libyan news agency JANA said the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau (Foreign Ministry) had issued a statement "expressing U.S. aggressive intentions and provocations against the Libyan Arab people." It said Libya appealed to international public opinion to put an end to "this flagrant American threat against Libya." The JANA report, monitored in Beirut, added that Libya "also appeals to the U.N. Security Council to convene so as to shoulder its responsibilities in a way that would realise the security and peace of a U.N. member country."

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Jordan's U.N. envoy arrives for visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, has arrived in Amman for a short visit. The Al Rai newspaper reported Sunday. He will also hold consultations at the Foreign Ministry, Al Rai said.

Israeli soldier dies of wounds

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli officer died Sunday of wounds he sustained in May during a guerrilla attack on an Israeli army patrol in Lebanon, an army spokesman said. Two other soldiers were killed in the bazooka attack near Bhamdoun. The latest death brought Israel's death toll to 509, according to official figures since its invasion of Lebanon was launched 14 months ago.

N.Yemen to resettle earthquake victims

ABU DHABI (R) — North Yemeni Finance Minister Mohammad Al Amri said Sunday his government would spend about 500 million Yemeni riyals (\$110 million) on reconstruction work following last December's devastating earthquake. Mr. Amri, who arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday night, said 28,000 homes would be built and a further 14,000, renovated for victims of the quake, which razed scores of villages south of Sana'a and killed several hundred people. He said the cost would be covered by cash promised by other Arab states.

Turkish finance minister in Taif

BAHRAIN (R) — Turkish Finance Minister Adnan Baser Kafoglu Sunday arrived in Saudi Arabia's summer resort of Taif on a five-day visit. The Saudi Press Agency said. The agency quoted him as saying on arrival that his visit was within the framework of cooperation between Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

N.Korea denies spy boat report

TOKYO (R) — North Korea said Sunday a boat sunk on Friday off southeast Korea was not a North Korean spy ship but a South Korean vessel fired on by its own side. The North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, quoted the official daily Rodong Sinmun as saying the incident had nothing to do with the north. "We have never sent nor intend to send an armed boat to the east sea there," it said.

U.K. army trainers to leave Zimbabwe

LONDON (R) — About 40 British military instructors are about to finish their work in Zimbabwe and return to Britain, a government spokesman said Sunday. Although Britain signalled concern this year over press reports that the Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's army had committed massacres among the minority Ndebele tribe of southwestern Zimbabwe, the British spokesman said the return of the advisers had no diplomatic significance.

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Spate of bomb attacks continues in Lebanon Baalbek market blast kills 33

BEIRUT (R) — Thirty-three people were killed and 125 injured when a car bomb devastated a teeming vegetable market in Baalbek in eastern Lebanon Sunday, the Lebanese Red Cross said.

A spokesman said the figure was presumed to be final but the right-wing Falangist radio said the number of dead was almost 40. Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan said the blast, which sowed panic and confusion in the town of some 25,000 people, had similar aims to Friday's bomb at the mosque in Tripoli when 19 people died.

"There are hands who insist on returning the country to an atmosphere of strife whenever some hope of salvation emerges," he said.

State-run Beirut Radio said earlier, as panic and confusion gripped the town of some 25,000 people, that about 35 people were killed and 65 wounded, with the toll likely to rise.

State-controlled television said the number of dead and wounded could rise to 100 after all the bodies were removed from the rubble of devastated buildings nearby.

It was the most devastating of a series of explosions which has struck different parts of Lebanon over the past three days raising fears of a random terror campaign.

The bomb blew up shortly after midday (1100 GMT), cutting down shoppers and tradesmen and turning the market into a smoking mass of rubble and burning cars, according to radio reports from the town.

The blast paralysed telephone links between Beirut and Baalbek, about 40 kilometres away in the eastern Bekaa Valley, cut power supplies and brought gunmen swarming onto the streets.

Loudspeaker vans toured the town, which has a mainly Shi'ite Muslim population, calling for blood donors to help the wounded, radio reports said.

State-run Beirut Radio said two Syrian soldiers were among the dead.

The Falangist radio said the bomb was estimated at 75 kilograms of high explosive packed into a car parked in the market near a taxi station not far from the town's main square.

The death toll was the highest in any explosion in Lebanon since the April 18 blast which devastated the U.S. embassy in Beirut, killing more than 60 people.

The present cycle of violence began on Friday with a car bomb outside a mosque in the northern city of Tripoli which killed 19.

The next day, three rightists were blown up by a booby trapped vehicle in the mountain village of Arbaniyeh east of Beirut.

All three car bombs have been planted in areas under Syrian control but there has been no indication who is behind them or if they are linked.

Baalbek, famed for its towering Roman temples and as Lebanon's hashish trading capital, was a tourist magnet until it sank into anarchy in the 1975-76 civil war.

Syrian troops are in overall control of the area but the town centre is ruled by militant Shi'ite gunmen allied to some 300 Iranian revolutionary guards who arrived last year.

A man telephoned an international news agency in Beirut to claim responsibility for the explosion on behalf of the "Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from foreigners."

The caller said the front was "renewing its operations in occupied Lebanese territory until no foreigner remains on Lebanese soil."

The front's only activity has been to claim responsibility for explosions, and the Lebanese news media treat its claims sceptically.

Assad reiterates pact rejection

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told the United States Sunday his country would continue to oppose the U.S.-backed deal for a troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

The Syrian leader gave this message to American special envoy Robert McFarlane at a six-hour-long meeting here, a presidential palace spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted Mr. Assad as telling Mr. McFarlane that the May 17 agreement signed by Israel and Lebanon "was imposed on Lebanon and will rob Lebanon of its freedom and independence."

The president said it would turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate.

The spokesman said the two men reviewed the overall situation in the region and Mr. Assad briefed Mr. McFarlane on Syria's "principled stance."

Neither side gave further details of the talks.

Government officials declined to disclose details of the meeting. Mr. McFarlane, on his first regional tour since taking over from Philip Habib last month, is trying to secure an agreement by all sides to get Israeli, Syrian, and Palestinian forces out of Lebanon.

The Syrian government newspaper Tishrin said Mr. McFarlane would hear "nothing new" from President Assad and repeated the official line that Israeli troops would have to quit Lebanon first.

Tishrin said the primary condition for dialogue between Damascus and Washington was cancellation of the U.S.-backed troop withdrawal deal signed by Israel and Lebanon in May.

It described the agreement as "a breach of U.N. principles, a political, economic and military threat to Lebanon and a threat to Syrian and Arab national security."

McFarlane will hear the same words heard by Shultz, Habib and Kissinger," the paper said, adding: "Damascus is committed to its principles and stances and any deviation from them would mean the collapse of the entire Arab Nation."

The ruling Baath Party's daily paper, Al Baath, dismissed Mr. McFarlane's tour as a political exercise designed to secure President Reagan a second term in the White House.

President Reagan, who is getting ready for a presidential campaign, is trying one way or another to open his election campaign from the Middle East," Al Baath said.

"He is hoping to achieve the first step to carry him again to the White House," it said.

Mr. McFarlane began his talks by meeting Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam. The official Syrian News Agency SANA said only that they discussed "the current political situation in the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon."

U.S. envoy arrives in Taif

BAHRAIN (R) — U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane arrived in the Saudi Arabian summer resort of Taif Sunday, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The agency gave no details of the reasons for his visit. But Mr. McFarlane, who flew to the kingdom after talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, was expected to seek Saudi backing for his Middle East peace mission.

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Israel may consider troop separation pact with Syria

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will consider a separation of forces agreement with Syria as a first step towards the total withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, a senior government official said Sunday.

But the official, who asked not to be identified, said Israel had "no intention to agree to any kind of withdrawal without any Syrian sign of willingness to do so as well."

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has rejected the Israeli-Lebanese agreement signed in May which called for a simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

In talks Sunday in Damascus, Mr. Assad told U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane his country would continue to oppose the U.S.-backed agreement.

The Israeli official said his country would accept any proposal on separating Israeli and Syrian troops in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley as long as it accorded with its security interests.

He said: "Everything McFarlane is able to achieve will be taken under consideration in a positive way. Disengagement is always a good thing."

Israeli and Syrian troops face each other in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley across a narrow no-man's-land.

The past week has seen several shooting incidents and Israeli tanks and artillery went into action after an Israeli soldier was killed by Syrian small arms fire.

The official reiterated Israel's refusal to publicise a timetable for its final pullback until Syria indicates its willingness to remove its estimated 30,000 troops from Lebanon.

But he emphasised Israel is committed to a total pullout of all its troops from Lebanon provided the Syrians also withdraw.

The official said Israel had given up the principle of simultaneous withdrawal provided for in the agreement with Lebanon by deciding to redeploy its troops along the Awali River in South Lebanon.

He said: "Simultaneous withdrawal is not so important any more. But maybe a separation of forces can be a first step towards complete withdrawal of all foreign forces."



Thursday marks anniversary of King's accession to throne

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Thursday celebrates the 31st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Prime Minister Mudar Badran issued a communique Sunday announcing that Thursday will be observed as a public holiday. All government departments and public institutions will be closed on that day, the communique said.

Japan urges Tehran to end war

TEHRAN (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, the most senior leader from an industrial country to visit Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Sunday appealed to Tehran to end its war with neighbouring Iraq, a Japanese spokesman said.

Mr. Abe made the call at a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, but stressed he was not trying to mediate in the conflict, the spokesman added.

Mr. Abe will later visit Iraq in his tour of Europe and Asia. The spokesman said the Iranian foreign minister said his country did not want to go to war but after being "invaded by Iraq had fought to defend" its territory.

Mr. Abe replied that Iran should stop fighting and devote its energy to building the country, the spokesman said.

He added that Mr. Velayati had expressed concern at French supplies of military equipment to Iraq, Japan took this to refer to reports France had decided to lend Baghdad J Super-Entendard planes, which could be used to fire missiles at Iranian offshore oil installations and tankers.

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Iraq says Iranians still encircled

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday its troops had repelled fresh Iranian attacks in the northern sector of the Gulf war front, and also still had Iranian troops bottled up in seven towns and villages in the central sector.

A high command communique said fierce fighting was still raging on both fronts and the Iranian side had suffered heavy casualties. It gave no details of Iraqi casualties.

The communique said Iraqi jets and helicopter gunships had carried out 342 combat missions Sunday, including raid during the hours of darkness carried out with the aid of flares.

The raids had inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment, and all the aircraft had returned safely to base, it said.

The communique said Iraqi forces had repelled all Iranian attacks in the north, where Iran mounted the first of two major offensives just over two weeks ago.

Iranian troops were still trapped inside the Iranian border town of Mehran and six nearby villages encircled by an Iraqi thrust across the border in the central sector Saturday, it said.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Sunday that Iraqi troops had killed over 9,000 Iranian troops and destroyed 35 tanks and other armour during weekend fighting in the central sector.

Iran claimed earlier it had repelled Saturday's attack in the Mehran area, killing some 1,500 Iraqi troops, and that its own forces had now gone on the offensive there.

Official Iranian reports have claimed that an Iranian offensive in the central sector nine days ago drove Iraqi troops out of some 50 square kilometres of Iranian territory they had held since the early days of the three-year-old war, and took a similar area on the Iraqi side of the border.

Iran has since reported repelling several counter-attacks. Iran also claimed Sunday it had taken three mountains and a strategic pass in Iraqi territory in the north after fierce fighting.

South Lebanese begin protests against occupation

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli troops near Beirut came under grenade and mortar attack early Sunday as Shi'ite Muslim villagers in southern Lebanon began a day of protest against the Israeli occupation.

Military sources said four rocket-propelled grenades and a number of mortar bombs were fired at an Israeli position near the town of Hadath, on the eastern outskirts of the capital.

One of the grenades landed close to the nearby base of British troops serving with the four-nation Beirut peace force, the sources said.

The Israelis replied with tank and cannon fire directed towards the Hayy Es Sillon suburb of Beirut, which is patrolled by the multinational force, they said.

An Israeli military spokesman outside Beirut confirmed the attack on the position, but claimed there were no casualties.

In southern Lebanon, Shi'ite Muslims gathered in mosques and halls for a day of peaceful protest against the 14-month-old Israeli occupation of the south. The demonstrations were called by the Shi'ite paramilitary organisation Amal against the arrest of an Amal leader from the village of Kfar Melki, 12 kilometres east of Sidon.

Reporters in Kfar Melki said villagers organised a sit-in at the local hall while youths burned tyres, blocked roads with stones and chanted anti-Israeli slogans.

Local feeling against the Israelis has risen with the recent arrest of several Amal leaders and local trade unionists.

Amal leaders also fear that Israeli plans to withdraw from the outskirts of Beirut to safer positions in the south will mean that southern Lebanon will stay under permanent Israeli occupation.

Central African Republic sends message to Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi received in his office Sunday the Central African Republic Ambassador to Iraq Munira Ismail who delivered a message for His Majesty King Hussein from the republic's president.

The message stressed the African country's interest in "strengthening ties of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, as well as strengthening Arab-African relations to achieve their mutual interests."

In his message, the African leader also praised King Hussein's major role and efforts in the service of justice and peace in the Middle East.

Yarmouk University to begin next academic year Sept. 24

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran announced Sunday that the university's 1983/84 academic year will begin on Sept. 24.

Dr. Badran said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that at least 8,000 applications have been submitted by students wishing to enrol and by the end of this week the number is expected to reach 12,000.

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Pierre Gemayel confirms meeting Sharon in Beirut

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lebanese Falangist Party leader Pierre Gemayel has been quoted as saying that he had met on Thursday with Ariel Sharon, minister without portfolio in the Israeli government.

Agence France Presse quoted Mr. Gemayel as telling reporters that his meeting with Mr. Sharon was "not the first" and that he was "not afraid" of the consequences of such a meeting because he was doing that for his country.

"I did not extend an invitation to Sharon to visit Beirut but the latter made the visit on his own initiative," Mr. Gemayel said.

He added: "We welcome any visitors to our country so that we can discuss the Lebanese situation and try to find means of saving our country." Israel Television on Thursday evening reported the Sharon visit to Beirut was at the invitation of the Falangist Party leadership.

Masked gunmen wounded in shootout near Dublin

DUBLIN (R) — Four masked men were injured in a gun battle Sunday when they walked into a police ambush at the Irish home of Canadian food tycoon Galen Weston, police said.

The four were treated in hospital for light gunshot wounds and a fifth masked man was arrested on the scene by armed officers of the Irish police anti-terrorist special task force.

Police would not say whether Mr. Weston was at home at the time or if they suspected a plot to kidnap the 42-year-old millionaire.

They said five men were being held under Ireland's tough, off-limits against the state act. Officers refused to say if they suspected involvement by guerrillas opposed to British rule in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Weston, youngest son of supermarket pioneer Garfield Weston, who died in 1978, is president of the Toronto-based Gen-

re Weston food giant and has store interests in Ireland and Britain including London's prestigious Fortnum and Masons.

The gunfight erupted when five men, all clad in balaclava helmets and boiler suits, arrived at breakfast time at the mansion in County Wicklow 25 kilometres from Dublin.

Police would not confirm a report that Mr. Weston and his family were not at home and had moved out on police advice following a tip that a kidnap or robbery might be staged.

Hospital spokesmen in Dublin said the condition of the four injured men was "serious but stable."

Although Mr. Weston belongs to a prominent Canadian family and has his business base in Toronto, he was born in England. He has lived in Ireland for some years and is married to an Irish former model.

About a third of Israel's \$24 billion national budget goes on defence.

Finance Ministry officials have suggested that Israel should reduce to 60 an order of 75 U.S.-made F-16 fighter planes.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens recently rejected suggestions that the defence budget could be trimmed.

Army chiefs have complained publicly that they do not get enough money to pay for Israel's army in Lebanon, which costs about \$1 million a day.

Inflation reached 131.5 per cent last year and is rising, and there are serious deteriorations in the foreign debt and balance of payments deficit.

Israel is committed to repay \$1.1 billion of foreign loans this year. Its external debt rose by 15 per cent last year to nearly \$21 billion.

Israeli newspapers have speculated on measures which they believe are being taken to boost revenue and cut spending.

NEWS

University registrar denies ban on new West Bank students

By Ahmad Salameh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The University of Jordan will accept 2,500 students for the 1983/84 academic year, according to the university's general registrar Ghazi Al Mufti.

He said that, among the new students, 300 will be enrolled in the Faculty of Arts, 300 in the Faculty of Economics, 300 in the Faculty of Sciences, 300 in the Faculty of Education, 150 in the Faculty of Medicine, 50 in the Faculty of Nursing, 100 in the Faculty of Agriculture and 200 in the Faculty of Engineering.

Meanwhile the University of Jordan has denied reports that it will not accept students from the occupied West Bank.

Director of Cultural Relations Faysal Rabie' said that the university follows a policy of supporting educational institutions in the Israeli-held territories. The University of Jordan will allow up to 10 per cent West Bank students to enter faculties which have counterparts in the West Bank, but will open its doors without quotas to other students who wish to study subjects not available in the Israeli-held territory, Mr. Rabie' said.

Alia to move head office

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, headquarters will be moving to a new home, where there will be plenty of space for all departments, according to Alia News, the airline's weekly newsletter.

Its new home will be at the Housing Bank owned building in Shmeisan, where Alia will occupy six floors.

Facilities will include a cafeteria to cater for all offices, a clinic, interior basement parking for 25 cars while outside parking will be available in an adjacent car park.

By January 1, 1984, the new headquarters will be operational. The only sections which will not be moving are those in the production area, including the Alia

printing press, stores, and tailoring and uniform shop, Alia News said.

One major advantage of the move will be closer communications among all city-based departments and thus, more consultation and better decision making, the newsletter added.

Meanwhile, the configuration of Alia's present B747 combi-aircraft has been changed to all-passenger-configuration after a decision made by Alia management.

The step was taken to meet the heavy passenger demand on the trans-Atlantic route. As a result, passenger seats have been increased from 260 to 400.



HIGH FLYER: Brig. Ihsan Shardam who was recently promoted to the position of commander of the Air Force. (Petra photo)

Momani: Jordan to host pan-Arab seminar on environmental pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will host a seminar on the environment and its problems in the Arab World in October, and will submit five working papers on pressing environmental issues and three others on air pollution which will be prepared by international specialists.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani announced here Sunday.

The minister who was speaking at a meeting of the national committee on environment which is laying the groundwork for the seminar, said his ministry will be

organising the seminar in cooperation with the Arab League in implementation of a resolution passed by a meeting of Arab ministers of housing and reconstruction in Libya.

Arab and foreign countries and international organisations will take part in the seminar which will tackle issues connected with the pollution of the environment and ways of combating it, the minister said.

He said subjects on the seminar's agenda would include: Soil and water pollution, industrial effluent and pollution resulting from

chemical and biological warfare. Also to be discussed is the expansion of cities and their impact on agricultural land, the continual erosion of marine and coastal vegetation as well as surface and underground pollution caused by waste dumping.

The delegates will also discuss legislation concerning the control of the pollution of food products in the Arab World especially the effect of insecticides and fertilisers on crops, the minister added.

The minister explained that most of the working papers will focus on the dangers of pollution and the damage that caused to the environment.

The national committee, which is chaired by the minister, comprises representatives of the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Information, the National Planning Council, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Royal Scientific Society, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, and the Jordanian committee for education, science and culture in addition to the department of the environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.



Hassan Al Momani

Food poisoning strikes family

AMMAN (J.T.) — All nine members of a family in Zarqa were Saturday treated for food poisoning. They were reported by Al Ra'i newspaper to have eaten a meal consisting mainly of liver which caused diarrhoea, severe stomach cramp and a high temperature.

The paper said that the family doctor was first called to treat them but, as their condition worsened, they were rushed to hospital for treatment. By Saturday evening, the paper said, some of the family members had been discharged from hospital having fully recovered.

Algerian trade delegation due

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Algerian trade delegation led by Mr. Sa'ih Farouq conferred here Sunday with Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour. They discussed economic and trade relations between Jordan and Algeria. The meeting was attended by several ministerial aides.

South Cement Company to produce in mid 1984

AMMAN (Petra) — The South Cement Company is expected to start production by mid 1984, according to a bulletin issued by the company Sunday.

It said that 45 per cent of the civil works have now been com-

pleted and that contracts have been drawn up for the purchase of mechanical equipment. The total production capacity of the company in the initial stages is expected to be two million tonnes per annum, the bulletin said.

Folk dance troupe regroups to repeat past glories

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a five-year period of inactivity, the Jordanian Folk Dance Group is taking off again. The group was re-established in January of this year by Mr. Abdullah Haddadin, the original troupe having been started in 1966 under Mr. Marwan Jarrah. The following year they participated in a charity concert at the Albert Hall in London to raise funds for Palestinian refugees.

Between 1968 and 1973, the eighteen members of the group enjoyed a series of tours in Europe and the Middle East, as well as performing nationally on special occasions at the Jerash and Amman Amphitheatres. The group continued to travel widely from 1974 to 1978 but, according to Mr. Haddadin, the group began to lose its identity as a Jordanian troupe due to the influence of the Lebanese director and costume-designer. At this time the group ran into financial difficulties and was forced to disband.

Now that the Department of Culture and Arts is financing the re-formed group, their immediate economic future is secure, enabling the group to pursue their aim of promoting the regional dances of Jordan. Within the group is a deep sense of tradition, and in keeping with this mood, the costumes are fashioned after the styles found in the villages of Jordan with meticulous attention to detail. Also, the instruments used are basic and traditional consisting simply of a 'rababa' (one-stringed violin), a 'mismar' (flute) and a 'tabl' (drum) accompanying two singers.

Unfortunately, the group have not had enough time to prepare for the Jerash Festival and will not be attending. However, they are currently rehearsing three days a week for a dancing tour scheduled for September this year when they will attend a Folk Dance Festival

in Dijon, France, representing Jordan in the display of international folk dance. Visits to New York and Baghdad are also planned to promote the dances of Jordan.

A special treat is in store for the people of Jordan when, in November, the group will be staging a production to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein. This show, to include dance, music and drama, has been written for the troupe by the Jordanian poet, Haider Mahmoud, and is called 'Reem Al-Bawadi' (The Desert Gazelle).

It is a symbolic tale about the beauty of the Bedouin girls, the desert and the love of the people for their country, and it clearly emphasises the commitment of the group to tradition. The fitness and precise timing of the dancers, already evident in the rehearsals, promises an excellent show when it comes to the stage.

The dance group, which at present comprises 18 members, maintains close ties with associations, clubs and schools where it is active in encouraging and promoting the folk dances of Jordan. The budget for the group is currently being arranged and will, it is hoped, secure the position and standing of the troupe.

There are many other folk dance groups here in Jordan, including the Alia Royal Jordanian Dance Group, and this naturally means that competition is inevitable. But this situation can only lead to higher standards, better productions and more promotion of the traditional and individual dances of Jordan, both Mr. Mahmoud who is also the director of the Department of Culture and Arts and Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

Interested readers have been invited to contact Mr. Abdullah Haddadin at the Department of Culture and Arts if they would like to participate in any way.

Jordan, Iraq conclude new trade agreements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq have signed a number of trade agreements to facilitate flow of goods between them, visiting Director of the Iraqi state organisation for consumer goods Abu Taleb Al Hashimi announced here Sunday.

He said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the agreements were signed during his current visit to Jordan which is aimed both at coordinating the exchange of trade between the two countries and the conclusion of contracts for the purchase of Jordanian commodities by Iraq.

"Jordanian products exported to Iraq enjoy certain privileges, including exemption from customs duty, which help them to compete with other goods on sale in the Iraqi markets," Mr. Hashimi said.

During his visit, he said, he had discussed with Jordanian officials ways of promoting the exchange

of trade between the two countries and of assuring closer cooperation between Iraqi and Jordanian chambers of commerce and industry.

The Iraqi delegation has already received offers from a large number of Jordanian producers and traders to export products to Iraq, Mr. Hashimi announced.

He said that his visit will also include a tour of several factories in Amman where, he said, contracts for Jordanian goods will be signed.

He pointed out that the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport and Arab Air Cargo Companies should further help promote the exchange of goods between the two

states.

The two countries will in the near future announce practical steps designed to cement further their economic relations which will be to the benefit of the peoples in the both countries, Mr. Hashimi said.

The Iraqi official paid tribute to the Jordanian government and people for their total support for Iraq in its war against Iran.

Jordanian-Iraqi relations are unique and serve as a model for relations between all Arab countries, Mr. Hashimi said.

The Iraqi delegation also Sunday visited the permanent Jordanian industrial fair at the premises of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The delegation members inspected the products on display and were briefed by the chamber's director, Ali Dajani, on Jordanian industrial development and the government's support for private sector industries.



Iraqi Transport and Communication Minister Jabbar Al Assadi confers with Jordanian Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat shortly after his arrival Sunday (Petra photo)

Iraqi transport minister arrives for talks on bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi arrived here Sunday for an official visit to Jordan expected to last several days.

He will hold talks with Jordanian officials including Transport Minister Ali Suheimat on issues aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in transport

affairs.

"My visit to Jordan is in the context of the continuing meetings between officials from both countries," the Iraqi minister said in a statement on his arrival.

During his stay in Jordan, Mr. Al Assadi will attend the general meeting of the Jordanian Iraqi Land Transport Company and will

inspect the work of the Air Cargo Company, which is a joint Iraqi-Jordanian venture.

The Iraqi minister was met upon his arrival at the airport by Mr. Suheimat and a number of his ministry's officials, senior officials of the Jordanian Iraqi Land Transport Company and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Company registration figures announced

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 145 new industrial companies with a total capital of JD 17.2 million were registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade in the first half of 1983, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the ministry Sunday. It said that the new industries created new jobs for 697 male and 56 female workers. According to the bulletin the value of equipment employed in the new industries amounted to JD 14.5 million.

Money changers ask to set up at airport

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is currently considering the issue of licences to money changers to open branches at the Queen Alia International Airport to deal in foreign currency. A CAA spokesman said a request to this effect was made to the CAA by the Central Bank of Jordan.

Registration head leaves for N.Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Civil Registration Department Refa'i Al Hazayneh left for North Yemen Sunday on an official visit. He will familiarise himself with the Yemeni civil registration system and discuss ways of promoting cooperation between the two countries in civil registration affairs.

Theatre group to play at Carthage

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Theatre Group (JTG) will take part in the 9-day Carthage theatre festival scheduled to be held in Tunisia on November 7. The Jordanian group will perform a play written and directed by Gamael Awad. The play was awarded a Jordan Writers Association prize after it was performed on March 27 to mark world theatre day.

Meteorological chief goes to Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to send Dr. Ali Abanda, director-general of the meteorological department to the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories (ACSDGAT) in Damascus. During the visit Dr. Abanda will discuss coordination between the centre and the meteorological department. The three-day visit is at the invitation of the Damascus-based centre.



Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Sunday presents a diploma to a graduate from Al Wassifeih Vocational Centre for girls (Petra photo)

Vocational centre students graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Sunday attended a graduation ceremony at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City for the 15th class of Al Wassifeih Vocational Centre for girls.

Speakers at the ceremony included the centre's Director Father Ra'ouf Najjar and one of the graduates.

The 168 graduates attended an 11-month training course on business correspondence, acc-

ountancy, computer technology and English and Arabic typing. Towards the end of the ceremony, Prince Ra'd presented diplomas to the graduates. Friends and relatives of the graduates also attended the ceremony.



Members of the Jordanian Folk Dance Group 'take off' during rehearsals for their forthcoming tours to Dijon, New York and Baghdad



Ustinov: We do not seek military superiority

AMMAN - Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov reaffirmed in a recent press statement that the Soviet Union does not have and is not striving for military superiority over the United States. In an interview with TASS, released here this week, Marshal Ustinov stressed that the main provision of the Soviet military doctrine is to have efficient defences and nothing in excess of it. Following is the full interview:



Dmitry Ustinov

Question: Statesmen of the NATO member countries, above all of the USA, are saying that the USSR "continues building up its military might, which goes far beyond the limits of its defence needs". Is that so?

Answer: The Soviet Union and its allies are maintaining their defence potential at a level necessary for the defence of the Warsaw treaty member-states. The essence of our military policy is effective defence and nothing above that. The USSR has never initiated the arms race and is not going to do so in the future. If we compare the military potential of the USA and the defence potential of the Soviet Union, they are roughly equal. Our military might is not greater than that of the United States. We do not strive for military superiority.

The question, however, arises: About what "limits" of the USSR's defence needs are the NATO leaders speaking? Proceeding from what do they determine the necessary, in their view, volume of our defence potential? They proceed from the premise that the defence might of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty should be inferior to the military might of the USA and NATO. The Soviet Union will not accept the "limits" which the USA is trying to impose on us.

We are for equality in nuclear and other weapons, for a renunciation of military superiority, not by words, but in deeds, as well as for talks without dictat and power pressure.

There exists a rough equality of military forces between the West and the East. It is a reality. This was recognised by three American presidents — Nixon, Ford and Carter.

This is also recognised now by many prominent American figures. Only President Reagan and, recently, some other Western representatives, following in his footsteps, are speaking much and at length about the USSR's "sup-

erarmament". But in reality up to the early seventies the USA had superiority in the field of strategic nuclear weapons. There are fields, where it has advantages to this day. Look at some figures: The USA has at present more than 13,000 nuclear warheads in its strategic nuclear force, whereas the USSR has less; the strength of the NATO armed forces is 5.5 million men, while the Warsaw Treaty has, even according to official Western sources, 4.9 million men. The USA has 13 aircraft carriers with 520 nuclear-capable aircraft on board, which are in service off the Soviet Union's coasts. The USSR has no aircraft carriers. This list could be further continued. The claims about Soviet military superiority, about the Soviet Union's superarmament are a fabricated malicious lie, which is being constantly disseminated.

Q: In connection with the talks on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe, the West continues accusing the Soviet Union of being unconstructive and intransigent, of striving to ensure unilateral advantages for itself. It is even claimed that the USSR has a "monopoly" on medium-range missiles. Are there grounds for such claims?

A: There are no grounds for such claims. Everyone at talks, naturally, presses for more advantageous conditions for himself. But if the subject of the talks are problems of fundamental interest for states, they can be conducted only with due regard for each other's legitimate interests.

This is precisely how the Soviet side is conducting things in Geneva. Our constructive proposals in Geneva are known. The USSR is for no nuclear weapons — either medium-range or tactical ones — in Europe. This is the real way to nuclear-free Europe, and it is acceptable to us, as the Soviet Union has no aggressive plans. The USA and NATO remain silent so far and do not give any answer to our initiative, although almost two

years have passed since it was put forward. The USSR has put forward yet another plan, according to which both sides should reduce their medium-range weapons in the European zone by more than two-thirds. In so doing, the Soviet Union is ready to preserve for itself the same number of missiles as Britain and France have. We expressed readiness to reach agreement on equality, in each mutually stipulated period of time, of nuclear potentials in Europe not only by the number of delivery vehicles (missiles and aircraft), but also by the number of warheads for them.

As a result, the Soviet Union would have in the European zone far less medium-range missiles and warheads on them than prior to 1976, when we had no SS-20 missiles at all. In reaching agreement on such a basis, we are prepared to start equalising the number of missiles of the sides even tomorrow. But wherein does the unconstructive character of our proposals lie? On the contrary, our proposals are constructive and responsible ones. They are a way to a reasonable compromise.

They in the West are speaking much about the "intransigence of the Russians". But in what, precisely speaking, are we expected to concede? Are we expected to give a go-ahead to the introduction of Pershing and cruise missiles into Europe? Are we expected not to count the nuclear weapons of Britain and France on NATO's side? Thus they are demanding unilateral concessions precisely from us, wishing that we should agree to a direct damage to our security and that of our allies. Why must we be tractable on that point? We are not demanding anything of the sort from the USA.

The question of the nuclear weapons of Britain and France is deliberately muddled up under cover of the thesis about the Soviet Union's "intransigence". It is impossible to find objectivity in the very attitude of not counting these weapons among NATO's medium-range nuclear force in Europe. This is NATO's frank str-

iving to preserve big military advantages for itself in Europe. As has been learnt now, it was in Guadeloupe way back in 1979 that the leaders of the USA and the other major NATO countries reached agreement that the USA would appear at the Geneva talks alone, so as to be able, by referring to the bilateral character of the talks, to exclude British and French nuclear weapons from the count, and put in circulation the allegation about a Soviet missile monopoly in Europe.

But in actual fact, there is, of course, no Soviet "missile monopoly". The Soviet SS-20 missiles are only a counterbalance to the nuclear potential of the NATO countries in Europe, including to their missiles. Speaking of monopoly, it is precisely the U.S. side which would like to gain the privilege of keeping near the Soviet borders additional nuclear weapons, which is a strategic factor for the Soviet Union. The USA would like to gain for itself a monopoly position by deploying close to the USSR nuclear weapons, capable of hitting targets deep in our territory, while the USSR does not have and, certainly, if one is to follow American logic, should not have a comparable potential somewhere near the USA. This is precisely to what Yuri Andropov drew attention.

It must be noted, for that matter, that when evaluating the NATO force, the USA itself invariably takes into account the nuclear potentials of Britain and France. The report to Congress of U.S. Defence Secretary (Casper) Weinberger on the military budget for 1983 frankly says that the NATO's large distance naval systems include submarine launched ballistic missiles — the British "polaris" and the American "posidon" — as well as carrier-based American planes. Mention is made in the same report also of French ballistic missile submarines, the only reservation being that officially they are not part of NATO. In its "white paper" on defence issues for 1978 the British government said that British submarines with "polaris"

missiles are part and parcel of NATO's strategic force. They are capable of doing such damage to the Soviet Union that the Soviet leadership should take them into account, it said further.

The demand that the nuclear weapons of Britain and France be counted on the NATO side is not a bargaining point for us, but an objective need stemming from the interests of ensuring our security. Under any circumstances the Soviet Union shall and will have an equivalent to the above-said weapons.

Q: Claims have been widely made recently on the initiative of the U.S. administration that the USSR has a superiority over the USA in the field of strategic weapons. What will you say to that?

A: At the present time there is rough equality in the balance of the strategic nuclear force of the Soviet Union and the strategic offensive force of the USA.

Seven years ago when the USSR and the USA were drafting the SALT-2 treaty, not only each figure but even each comma was verified many times. And when the leaders of the USSR and the USA were signing that treaty in Vienna in 1979, they placed on record that there existed parity between the Soviet Union and the United States in the field of strategic weapons. It remains to this day. But the whole point is that they in Washington have set themselves the aim of breaking that parity, of achieving military superiority.

Whatever component of the strategic offensive force of the USA we may take, each of them is to be re-equipped with new weapons systems soon. The "MX" ground-based strategic missile with 10 independently targetable warheads is being tested, a new mobile single warhead "mid-gemant" missile and a new sea-based "trident-2" missile are being developed. Intensive work is under way to deploy in this decade two new strategic bombers (B-1 and "stealth"), batch production has been started of long-range air-and-sea-launched cruise missiles, preparations are nearing completion for the deployment of Soviet ground-based missiles. And, as the leading Pentagon officials say, the United States will continue implementing all the above-said programmes even if an agreement on a reduction of strategic weapons is concluded with the Soviet Union.

The Washington leaders use various gimmicks to cover up their policy of ensuring military superiority. They have set afoot a concept, according to which the weapons that are most developed on the Soviet Union side — modern Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) — are declared as being destabilising and subject to scrapping, while those in which

the USA is most strong — the modern submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and heavy bombers — are to remain intact.

Indeed, the American side is guided by precisely this concept at the Geneva talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic weapons. The stand of the USA, the way it is now presented at the talks, is selfish and aimed at the Soviet Union's unilateral disarmament. It disregards our legitimate interests and presupposes the attainment of an overwhelming advantage of the USA over the USSR. We are proposed actually to reshape the whole structure of our strategic forces. The aim of these proposals is to undermine the USSR's strategic nuclear power.

Q: What will you say about the campaign which has been launched in the USA and the other NATO countries with the aim of portraying the Soviet government's statement of May 28 as a growth of the "Soviet military threat" to the West?

A: The Soviet Union has never threatened and does not threaten anyone. By whipping up the "Soviet threat" myth, certain circles in the West are thus trying to distract the attention of the peoples from the real military threat, which is created by the U.S. administration and some of its NATO allies.

The U.S. president has been recently ever more often saying, for example, that the "Pershing-2" missiles are indispensable, that America also very much needs "trident" missiles in order to "deter the Russians". But the speculation on deterrence is a camouflage. The American leaders consider it to be a disadvantage to them to tell the truth about their military preparations. Yet, in actual fact, the Pershing-2 and trident missiles are a first strike weapon. And the Washington strategists are concerned not with "detering the Russians". The first nuclear strike doctrine has become the dominant one in the U.S. military strategy. The creation of strategic weapons systems and the build-up of the strategic force as a whole is subordinated to the possibility of implementing precisely that doctrine.

We will take such counter-measures, that will make the military threat to the territory of the USA and the countries, on whose territories American missiles will be deployed, the same as the USA is trying to create for the Soviet Union and our allies. And may those who are building up the arms race today realise, at long last, the dangerous illusory character of the drive for military superiority and the pressing need for reaching agreement on limiting and reducing nuclear weapons in accordance with the principle of equality and equal security.

Randa Habib's Column

Top of the form

With the approach of the university opening, it is interesting to be in a group where mothers talk about the scholastic projects of their children. The conversation is colourful and animated.

Those ladies compete to have the lead of the conversation each one convinced that her story is the most interesting.

Sometimes you find yourself listening to a lady who is a real one way truck. Once she starts talking you can never stop her and you need to make extraordinary efforts to say one word.

She gives you the history of her children from their childhood including vaccines, illnesses to (finally) reach their university period where of course "They excel and are the first in their class".

Once this lady has finished her speech, another one starts and explains to you how much her children are special, how much their professors are stunned by their intelligence and good manners, she adds, that although studying abroad their conduct is perfect, they are real angels.

There is the one who affirms with contempt that the country where her son is studying engineering is trying very hard to make him stay so that they can take advantage of his "extraordinary capacities".

With the parents ratings of these students, they all are the best. There are no runners up or second best much less any weaker ones. One cannot help wondering: Is this a generation of geni we are breeding?

Rice shortage persists in Asia despite increase in yields

By Ruth Seitz

Asia, with 2.5 billion people, has over half the world's population to feed. It grows and eats 92 per cent of the world's rice but, to keep pace with population growth and a modest rise in incomes, rice production would have to increase at an average annual rate of 3.6 per cent. In the last decade Asia's yield (excluding war-torn countries) grew by 2.59 per cent each year.

Rice is the major staple for 1.5 billion poor Asians, and most of it is grown by small farmers: 90 per cent of Asia's rice farmers outside China have fewer than five hectares of land. "Rice and prosperity in Asia are intertwined," says Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, India's leading agricultural scientist and director-general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Banos, Philippines.

Two of the largest consumers of rice, India and China, have so far been keeping rice production in line with demand. India's demand and production are each growing at about 2.5 per cent annually. China claims to have increased production by 3 per cent in 1979.

But the remaining developing countries of Asia face a deficit between production and demand. Dr. Robert W. Herdt, agricultural economist at the IRRI, points out.

With few new prime areas available for rice growing, researchers are exploring other ways to close the production gap. An IRRI long-range plan estimates that about 48 per cent of future rice production could come from increased yields and about 52 per cent from more intensive cropping.

The Green Revolution brought a big increase in production, using seeds dependent on irrigation and fertiliser. "High-yielding varieties are mostly being grown under irrigated conditions which cover only 30 per cent of the rice area in the tropics," says Dr. Swaminathan. "More than three-quarters of the world rice farmers have still not adopted the new varieties."

Scientists are now cross-breeding to maximise production in cold, drought-prone and

deep-water environments. Breeders select from the 60,000 varieties stored in IRRI's germplasm bank where seeds from all over the world are categorised according to traits.

Another crucial need is high-yielding rice that needs little fertiliser, but there are few gains in sight. Or, if plant geneticists developed rice that could fix nitrogen in the soil like legumes, the food production picture would radically change, but there is no sign of this breakthrough.

Pest-resistance became an important seed trait when the vulnerability of Green Revolution varieties brought disease epidemics in the early 1970s. Unlike the traditional rice plant, the new dwarf varieties from dense canopies which stop the sunlight from reaching the soil and create the right micro-environment for pests, and disease. Over a third of tropical Asia's rice crop is lost to these pests.

The scientists are barely keeping ahead of them. For example, after IRRI developed IR26, which was resistant to the brown planthopper, the insect evolved new biotypes that could attack that strain of rice. IRRI countered with a new genetically manipulated variety, IR36.

Ten million hectares of this high-yielding, disease-resistant variety that matures in 100 days are grown in Asia. "Any pest epidemic could ravage farm harvests all the way from Korea to Indonesia."

Even without such widespread chaos, the year 2000 still does not look favourable for all of Asia's 2.5 billion rice eaters. A projected 700 million will not get enough calories even if production levels are high enough to keep food prices constant. If the demand from growing populations increases faster than the supply and the price goes up even slightly, the poorest will be hit hardest.

Dr. Herdt adds that economic disparity is as much of a problem as low production in many countries. A reorganisation of land ownership and marketing systems is necessary to correct the food imbalance.

— People news feature

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SPORTS

Glory for Waitz, despair for Juantorena at World Athletics Championships

HELSINKI (R) — Norwegian Grete Waitz grabbed the first title of the inaugural World Athletics Championships here on Sunday but the day was darkened by a savage injury to Cuban former Olympic Champion Alberto Juantorena.

Waitz won the women's marathon and had completed a lap of honour to the cheers of thousands of fans before Marianne Dickerson of the United States entered the Olympic stadium to win the silver medal.

She clocked two hours 28 minutes nine seconds to win by exactly three minutes from Dickerson. But as the slender 29-year-old Norwegian happily acknowledged the acclaim she deserved, Juantorena's world title hopes had long been shattered.

The 32-year-old Cuban, triumphant over 400 and 800 metres at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, crashed off the track at the end of an 800-metre heat and was taken to hospital with torn ligaments in his right ankle, a broken bone in his foot.

But Juantorena fought back the bitterness and despair after an operation to declare that he would be challenging for gold at next

year's Olympics in Los Angeles. Juantorena had eased up, content with second place behind Brazilian Agberto Guimaraes and glancing to his right as Kenya's Juma Ndiwa made a late surge to try to catch them.

The 32-year-old Cuban stumbled over the raised metal rim of the track and smashed into a starting lane block on the grass inside.

He writhed on the ground in agony and tried to resist efforts to get him on a stretcher, flailing out in frustration as they carried him away.

Leroy Perry, an American who is doctor for both the Cuban and the Chinese teams, said Juantorena said he had been bumped by the Kenyan.

"We did the only thing we could at the time, which was to have an operation to sew the ligaments together and possibly stabilise the fibula."

"All the lateral ligaments on the outside of his right ankle are ripped. We operated to repair it," Perry said.

Perry said Juantorena, dogged for years by injury, had shifted all his weight on to his right ankle — "otherwise he would probably have broken his leg."

"It will take 12 to 16 weeks to get him ready before he can begin serious training," the doctor, who has been treating the Cuban since 1978, said.

But Juantorena's day of anguish was a day of triumph for Waitz, who pulled away two thirds of the way through the race to earn the winner's garland presented at the finish.

"I felt the race went very well, even though the course was heavy. About seven to eight kilometres from the finish, I knew I could make it," she said.

Ireland's Regina Joyce took the lead at 18 kms and held it for a further 14 until the Norwegian overhauled her and gradually burned off her rivals, led by Raisa Smekhnova, of the Soviet Union.

Dickerson, 22, slipped past the Soviet runner inside the stadium to take the silver, a considerable achievement for a competitor previously overshadowed by fellow Americans Joan Benoit and Julie Brown.

Benoit, who won this year's Boston Marathon in the fastest ever time by a woman, is aiming for the Olympic marathon next year and was not running Sunday. Brown was second behind Joyce at

30 kms but suffered an achilles heel stress and dropped out some eight kms from the finish.

The women's marathon field started out from the stadium before athletes from 159 nations marched in to take part in the official opening ceremony.

Waitz missed last year's European Championship marathon, the first women's marathon staged at a major championship.

"This race was the first all-female marathon I've run in," she said.

"Normally I would run how I feel. Today I could have run faster. It is the first time I've run a tactical race — and I like it."

Waitz said she had wanted to catch Joyce when the Irish runner was in front, because she considered Brown the main competitor.

The American, who was running alongside her, said Joyce would come back to them — "and that's what happened," Waitz said.

Dickerson said she had been training for the marathon for nine months. She said her tactic had been to stay behind Brown. "I just felt fine all the way," she said.

Soviet Union clinches world basketball crown

SAO PAULO (R) — The Soviet Union came from behind to defeat the United States, the defending champions, 84-82 (half-time 37-40) in the dramatic final of the ninth World Women's Basketball Championships Saturday night.

With only seconds remaining the teams were tied on 82 points, but in what proved to be the last shot of the match, the Soviet number 12, Elena Chausova, scored to give the Soviet Union their sixth world title.

But the Soviet Union, undefeated in official competition for 25 years and strong favourites at the outset of the competition, were made to draw on every ounce of their experience to overcome a U.S. side determined to hang on to the crown they won four years ago in South Korea in the absence of the Russians.

In their narrow 85-84 loss to their Soviet rivals in an earlier round of the tournament, the Americans had given warning of the threat they posed.

And so it proved as the Americans, relying on fast counter-attacks which often left the Rus-

sians floundering, led for much of the match, occasionally by as much as seven points.

But in the end, as the less experienced American side began to tire, the control and discipline of the Russians made the difference.

The opening minutes of the match saw the sides trading scores, but soon the extra pace of the Americans and their tight marking began to give them an edge.

The Russian trainer was sufficiently worried to call a time out after only three and a half minutes to try to steady the Soviet players.

The pressure the Russians were under was evident in the high number of fouls they committed in attempting to smother the American rushes.

The U.S. number nine, Cheryl Miller, was the main sufferer as her powerful running put the Soviet defence under constant pressure. She scored 21 points in the first half alone, mainly from free throws.

As the second period got under way, the Americans continued to have the upper hand with their extra pace and more accurate shooting.

The match had set into a pattern, with the Americans moving four or five points ahead, only for the Russians to narrow the gap before falling behind again.

The Soviet team's 31-year-old veteran, Uliana Semenova, possibly playing her last major tournament, had been withdrawn in the dying seconds of the first half and in her absence Russians lost some of their height advantage.

But as the match moved into the last quarter the U.S. shooting and attacks lost their incisiveness and the Russians slipped in front for the first time since the opening seconds of the game.

From there on the Russians were never again behind, though the U.S. team succeeded in levelling the scores at 82-82 with only 30 seconds remaining.

But the Russians were in possession and the Americans could only stand, heads bowed, as Chausova clinched the winner.

Earlier, in the play-off for third place, China defeated their Asian rivals South Korea by 71-63.

Jordan leads group in basketball championships

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the Fifth Arab Basketball Championships men's matches Sunday morning Saudi Arabia beat Somalia 91-81 and the United Arab Emirates and Libya drew. In the women's matches, Somalia beat Lebanon 63-57. Three more matches were scheduled for Sunday afternoon with Jordan playing Iraq, Tunisia playing Iraq and Jordan playing a match with Palestine. In Saturday's men's matches, Jordan beat Lebanon 87-72 and this victory qualified Jordan to lead the first group of the championships in which nine Arab countries are participating. All matches are taking place at the Al Hussein Youth City Sports Palace.

Spencer wins 500cc race in exciting finish

ANDERSTORP, Sweden (R) — Freddie Spencer, on a Honda, snatched the Swedish 500cc Grand Prix from fellow-American Kenny Roberts in a dramatic finish here Sunday.

Spencer, the World Championship leader, swept past the outside of Roberts' Yamaha on the final curve for his sixth Grand Prix win of the season. The World Championship will now be decided in the final race at San Marino on Sept. 4 with Spencer and Roberts the only men who can win it.

Spencer, 21, from Louisiana, known as "Fast Freddie", was the early leader. He was overtaken by Roberts on the fourth lap but the two men stayed wheel to wheel for the remainder of the race over the 4.031-km Anderstorp circuit.

Roberts is chasing his fourth world title before retiring. His victory last weekend in the British Grand Prix was his fifth success of the season but Sunday's defeat was a major setback to his title ambitions.

Vikings invasion leaves Wembley mystified

LONDON (R) — The scoreboard read: "Minnesota Vikings 28, St. Louis Cardinals 10" which meant someone, somewhere at Wembley on Saturday had a rough idea what was going on.

But the scoreboard operator apart, the vast majority of the 32,847 crowd which attended the first ever American football match to be staged in Britain found the proceedings — however entertaining at times — a complete mystery from start to finish.

According to the programme notes, American football is played in four 15-minute sessions. Logically, the Global Cup contest should have been over in one hour... not so. The match started at 17.38 local and finished at 20.53 — the first "15 minutes" alone lasted 44 minutes.

That was hardly surprising since the Vikings and Cardinals spent more time huddled around in deep conversation than they did in possession of the ball.

The general consensus was that the players, just returning to action after the summer break, were discussing their holidays.

Little was seen of the ball itself. To ignorant British eyes, football American-style is a high-speed game of pass-the-parcel played by marauding giants.

And whenever was luckless enough to find himself holding "the parcel" invariably ended up buried beneath an avalanche of well-developed bodies.

The mere sight of Cardinals star Art Plunkett bearing down would be enough to make most people smile ingratiatingly, hand the ball over meekly and take up philately.

At six foot seven inches and 270 pounds, Plunkett is "Superman" in armour-plated white pyjamas

and a crash-helmet. Plunkett was one half of a two-man demolition firm whose philosophy in life appeared to be: "If it moves... flatten it."

His business partner was the ferocious-looking 22-year-old Carlos Scott, described in the fact-sheet as a "first-year Rookie" which could mean he is still a growing boy — hard to imagine because he is already a human roundabout.

Scott measures a "mere" six foot four but at 300 pounds he is unlikely to ever suffer the indignity of having sand kicked in his face.

There is obviously more to American football than brawn, however, and Vikings' wide receiver Leo Lewis — a flying winger in the Garriacha mould — won the hearts of the terraces with his lightning dashes down the touchline.

Lewis, a tiny five foot eight 170-pounder whose hobbies include collecting matchbook covers, looked as though he had wandered onto the pitch by mistake when he first appeared. But his

touchdown in the closing seconds of the second quarter proved he had played this game before.

He took a glorious torpedo-style pass from quarterback Tommy Kramer — the Vikings' midfield general — and sprinted 31 yards to the line.

That may not seem a great feat but it is a long, long way to run when you are wearing a suit of armour, carrying an awkward rugby ball and being pursued by the likes of Plunkett and Scott.

To be fair to the Cardinals, the flying Lewis had some valuable assistance from four burly bodyguards who made certain the St. Louis defence never got within touching distance of the ball-carrier.

It was also impossible not to admire the ice-cool Kramer.

He would stand like the statue of liberty for interminable seconds, the ball held in his right hand high behind his head, while mayhem raged all around him.

The Cardinals went after him like a ravenous dog scenting a bone while the Vikings tried to

stop them by all possible means. Then, as over 30,000 spectators closed their eyes, Kramer would pick out a team-mate with one of his pin-point long-range passes.

It was from another of Kramer's inspired moves that centre-back Rufus Bess scored the best touchdown ever seen at Wembley in the fourth quarter when he sped 75 yards to the line.

On one occasion, however, the Vikings rearguard let their quarter-back down and the massive rush Brown caught Kramer in possession with a bone-rattling tackle which echoed round the stadium.

Harry Connolly, on vacation from Philadelphia, muttered: "Kramer's been sacked." Sympathetic Terry Cassidy from Clapham, London, offered the view: "With a defence like that he should have resigned."

Although the Cardinals had a real-life hero in Don Bessillieu, who once saved an unconscious woman from her car which was sinking in a deep lake, it was the Vikings who won over the neutrals.

Connors, Mayotte clash in final

NEWPORT BEACH, California (R) — Tim Mayotte and Jimmy Connors scored straight-set victories Saturday to advance to the final of a \$300,000 exhibition tournament at the Newport Beach Tennis Club.

Mayotte, 25, easily pulled off the biggest upset of the three-day eight-man tournament by eliminating Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 6-2. Connors, the crowd's favourite, struggled past Sweden's Mats Wilander, 7-5, 6-4.

The final will be worth \$100,000 to the winner and \$25,000 to the runner-up.

Mayotte, a winner over Frenchman Yannick Noah on Friday, used classic serve-and-volley tactics

and steady ground strokes to oust Lendl.

"Once I won the first set," Mayotte said, "I thought I had the match. I could see his confidence dropping while mine was raised. I could feel he wasn't playing well from the start. He was playing sloppy, and he looked tired."

Mayotte, a Wimbledon semifinalist this year, captured the opening set by breaking Lendl's service in the seventh game. Two more breaks followed the second set, giving him the straight-set victory and his first over Lendl in six attempts.

Connors, 30, had a difficult time against Sweden's top player. Two service breaks by each player in the opening set had it tied at 5-5.

But Connors registered the crucial break in the 11th game after holding three points when Wilander's backhand sailed wide.

The left-handed Connors, four times U.S. Open Champion, rolled to a 4-0 lead in the second set with two more service breaks against the 19-year-old Clay Court specialist.

Wilander got his second wind, however, and evened the set at 4-4 with two breaks of his own. Connors recovered to break Wilander again at love, winning eight of the final nine points.

In a consolation match Saturday South African Kevin Curren beat Noah, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Curren earned \$20,000 and Noah \$15,000.

Arnoux lands 2nd win of season

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Rene Arnoux of France steered his Ferrari to victory in the West German Motor Racing Grand Prix here Sunday for the seventh success of his career.

Arnoux dominated the race after taking the lead on the second lap and surrendered it only to make a pit stop halfway through which allowed Brazil's Nelson Piquet to take over.

It was Arnoux's second win this year and pulled him into fourth place in the World Championship standings.

Austria's former World Champion Niki Lauda was disqualified after finishing fifth in his McLaren. The organisers upheld a complaint by the Williams team that Lauda had overrun his pit by five metres during a stop. He then reversed back to his own pit box,

which they said was illegal. Alain Prost of France was fourth in his Renault to increase his lead in the World Championship from six to nine points.

Italian Andrea de Cesaris grabbed second place in his Alfa Romeo when Piquet's challenge for the lead ended in flames two laps from home.

Piquet had dogged Arnoux in the closing stages and looked capable of taking into the lead when his fuel filter disintegrated. He steered the car off the track and leapt out as the engine burst into flames.

The race was also a disappointment for Prost's compatriot and Ferrari teammate Patrick Tambay, who won here last year.

Tambay started from pole position, but lost the lead early on and

failed to emerge from the pits on the 13th lap after ignition problems.

The near-perfect conditions were a sharp contrast to the rain-hit final practice session on Saturday, and the turbo cars revelled on the fast Hockenheim straights.

Arnoux broke the course record as he hurtled to victory, clocking one minute 53.938 seconds on the 13th lap for an average speed of 214.758 kph.

The turbos fired the first 11 grid slots, but Lauda and teammate John Watson of Britain handled the conventionally-powered cars.

Stewards disqualified Lauda because he had not been pushed back into his pit box.

Watson was moved from sixth place to fifth with Williams driver Jacques Laffie picking up a championship point by being awarded sixth place.

Temesvari claims clay court title

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Top-seeded Andrea Temesvari of Hungary won her second major clay-court tournament of the year Saturday with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over third-seeded American Zina Garrison in the women's final of the U.S. Clay-Court Championships.

"I just wanted to win so much, I kept on saying to myself 'come on Andrea' I wanted to eat the ball out there today," said Temesvari, who won \$34,000.

The 19-year-old Garrison, playing in her first professional final, won \$17,500 in her bid to be the first black player since Althea Gibson in 1957 to win the title.

"She doesn't let you back in with easy mistakes," Garrison said. "She served well and kept the pressure on me."

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WORLD

Chinese pilot defects to S. Korea with MiG-21

SEOUL (R) — The pilot of a Chinese MiG-21 defected to South Korea Sunday, setting off air raid warnings and arousing fears that the country was under air attack from North Korea.

The defence ministry said South Korean aircraft scrambled and escorted the Chinese plane to an unnamed air base where the pilot, the fourth to defect from China, was being questioned.

The state radio interrupted programmes to say an enemy air attack was taking place west of Seoul but later said the alert was caused by the MiG-21 penetrating South Korean air space.

A similar air raid warning was sounded in May when a Chinese airliner suddenly appeared over South Korea after being hijacked by six Chinese on a domestic

flight. The six are now on trial here.

The last Chinese air force pilot to defect to South Korea was Capt. Wu Yung-Ken, 25, who flew his MiG-19 jet here in October. He was later granted political asylum in Taiwan where he received \$2.5 million in gold and became a major in the Nationalist air force.

A North Korean pilot flew a MiG-19 to the South in February, the seventh North Korean pilot to defect to the South since the peninsula was divided at the end of World War II.

Sunday's air raid warnings came two days after South Korea said it had sunk a North Korean spy boat off its east coast, killing five commandos on board.

A defence ministry spokesman said another North Korean vessel escaped and that the infiltrators had planned to damage a Canadian-designed nuclear power station in the southeastern town of Wolsong.

Analysts said the sinking, which came nine days after the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice, showed how precarious the ceasefire was between South and North.

South Korean Defence Minister Yoon Sung-Min said in June there were strong indications that North Korea planned to send large guerrilla forces to the South this month.

Chicago lawmen in trouble

CHICAGO (R) — A U.S. government investigation of the Chicago area's court system has uncovered corruption that could lead to charges being brought against more than two dozen judges, lawyers, court officials and police, two newspapers said.

The Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times quoted U.S. government sources as saying Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lawyers from out of town had infiltrated the circuit court system of Cook County and found bribery and case-fixing.

The Tribune said in Sunday's edition that evidence has been developed against at least six judges, 14 defence attorneys, five policemen and a number of court aides.

It said the evidence would be turned over to a grand jury, which would decide whether the suspects would be charged.

Electronic spying equipment was used to record conversations in the investigation — which the FBI called "Operation Greyhound" after the wigs worn in British courts.

Bomb explodes at U.S. air base in W. Germany

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, West Germany (R) — A bomb exploded at a nearby U.S. officers' mess Sunday a few hours before the start of Europe's biggest air display at this major American air base, a U.S. military spokesman said.

No one was injured, but the device slightly damaged the mess just outside the Hahn air force base compound, southwest of Frankfurt, he said. West German police and U.S. authorities were investigating the incident.

About 700,000 people were expected to attend Sunday's air show at Ramstein.

More than 40 anti-nuclear groups have warned they intend to disrupt the display by peaceful means in protest against NATO plans to route new U.S. nuclear missiles through Ramstein for deployment in West Germany this winter and in several other West European countries, should Soviet-U.S. arms control talks in Geneva fail.

Genghis Khan back in shape

PEKING (R) — Mongol herdsman were among 1,000 people who this week staged a memorial service at the tomb of Genghis Khan, the warrior whose empire once stretched from China to the gates of Europe, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

The great conqueror was revived as an oppressive monster during the 1966-76 Maoist Cultural Revolution, when his mausoleum in the Ejim Horo region of Chinese inner Mongolia was badly damaged by red guards.

In 1980, though, Genghis Khan

was officially restored to his pedestal of Mongol folk hero and his tomb restored.

The official agency said three big wooden plates, loaded with whole sheep and butter lamps, were placed on a long table in front of his five-metre statue.

Herdsman, who had ridden long distance across the Steppe, filed into the hall, prostrated themselves at the foot of the statue and presented their sacrifices as Mongolian lamas chanted laments.

Colombo counts the dead

COLOMBO (R) — Nine days of ethnic violence, which swept Sri Lanka from July 23, claimed at least 315 lives, the government said Sunday.

A spokesman said in addition to the official death toll of 245, the military also gunned down 20 other people in two separate incidents in the northern district of Jaffna on July 24.

The killings were in retaliation for an ambush the previous day, mounted by guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state, in which 13 of their comrades died, he said.

The ambush sparked ethnic violence between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority resulting in the deaths and destruction of scores of homes, shops and factories.

Of the 20 people killed by the soldiers, the spokesman said, 12 had been taken off a bus and shot while the other eight were gunned

down in the village of Madegal.

Representatives of countries and international organisations giving aid to Sri Lanka, have been invited to a conference Monday at which the government will seek assistance to help it rebuild the economy.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said last week the riots set the economy back by three years and a special reconstruction fund would be established.

Tamils in Colombo, who sought refuge from Sinhalese attacks in government camps, are beginning to return home, the spokesman said.

So far 10,000 have done so, he said. Another 10,000 have been evacuated by sea and air to Jaffna, and 2,500 by train to Central and Eastern Provinces, he added.

As a result the number of Tamils still in camps had dropped to 37,000.

Single-party Seychelles holds polls

VICTORIA, Seychelles (R) — Seychelles voters went to the polls Sunday to elect a new people's assembly within the framework of their left-wing, one-party system in this archipelago 1600 kilometres off the East African coast.

Only candidates from the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) of President Albert René were allowed to stand for the 25-member house, though in some constituencies two or more party members were vying for one seat.

There has, however, been no electioneering, posters or other campaign paraphernalia in the run-up to Sunday's vote, the first since the trauma of an abortive mercenary invasion in 1981 and an army mutiny last year.

About half the population of 65,000 were eligible to vote.

Tanzania soldiers backing the René government guarded strategic sites in advance of the polls. More than 70 Seychelles troops accused of involvement in the mutiny are awaiting trial.

Neither the invasion nor the mutiny were considered to be election issues, though they remain topics of conversation among the islanders.

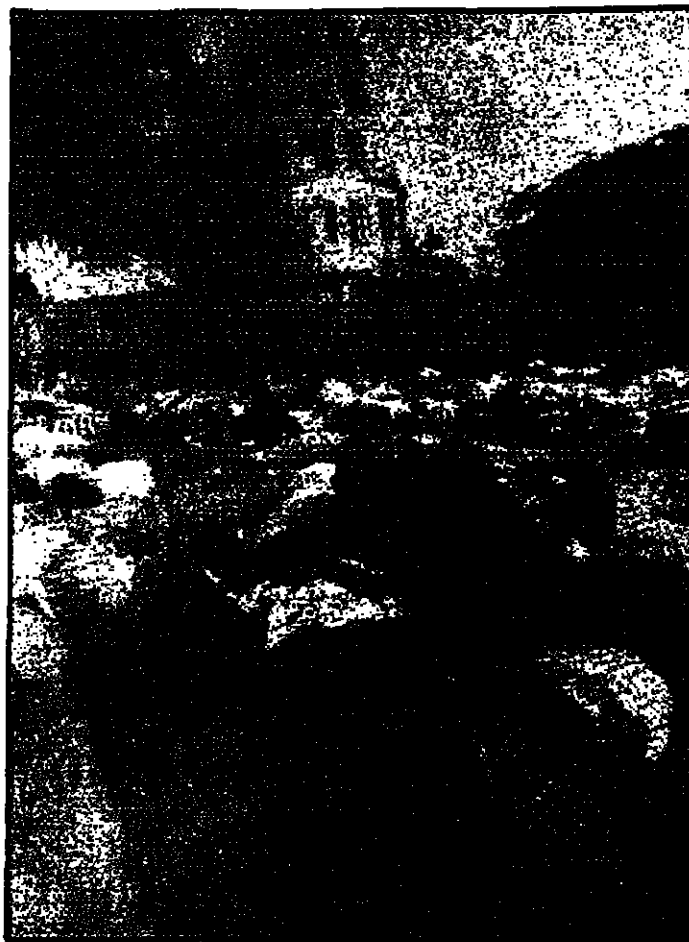
The former British colony has been under left-wing rule since Mr. René took power in a coup in 1977.

Austrian daily cleans up act

VIENNA (R) — The Austrian daily Kurier Sunday announced it was stopping sex advertisements from prostitutes, after a similar move by its main competitor a week ago.

The daily, the second largest in the country after the rival Kronen Zeitung, said it had acted in the interests of tenants and landlords in houses where the prostitutes ply their trade.

Kurier sells an average one million copies daily and said it would lose 120 million schillings (\$6.8 million) a year by not carrying the advertisements which often covered two pages.



HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR: People, gathered in front of a shattered dome, stage a die-in Saturday morning during the 38th anniversary of the Atomic destruction of this western Japanese city, which claimed an estimated 151,000 victims.

Nigeria counts votes

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian officials were counting votes Sunday after the country's first civilian-run presidential election for nearly 20 years.

The Federal Electoral Commission (Fecodec) said it would not announce any results until all were in from each of the country's 19 states.

The turnout Saturday was heavy, with voters queuing well before polling started in the election, which involved an attempt by President Shugu Shagari to win a second term.

The authorities staged the biggest security operation in the country's peacetime history to ensure model elections in black Africa's most populous nation.

Both leading contenders, Mr. Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and chief Obafemi Awolowo of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), expressed complete confidence of victory in what was expected to be a tight race. Six men contested the elections.

The security operation, the biggest since Nigeria's 30-month civil war ended in 1970, appeared to

have kept potential flashpoints under control.

The degree of calm displayed by this country's notoriously passionate voters clearly surprised even the most optimistic of Nigerians.

Reports from around the country spoke of some organisational problems, with Fecodec officials or electoral materials turning up late and delaying the start of voting.

But people accepted the difficulties and no violence was reported, probably because of massive displays of force by heavily armed police last Thursday.

In at least two states, Kaduna in the north and Oyo in the west, Fecodec extended the voting hours to make up for delays.

Mr. Shagari is generally expected to win narrowly from Mr. Awolowo, as he did in army-supervised elections in 1979 when the military handed over power to civilians.

This time, as in 1979, the key minority votes are likely to go to Mr. Shagari, who is a member of the northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani tribe.

Hopes pinned on 10-knot Cape wind to check slick

CAPE TOWN (R) — Ships spread deterrents Sunday to fight oil leaking from the broken Spanish tanker Castillo de Bellver as a change of wind offered hope of averting a major pollution disaster on South Africa's Atlantic coast.

The fully-laden 138,822-ton tanker was engulfed in flames and split in two 105 kilometres northwest of Cape Town early Saturday after it rounded the Cape heading for Spain, leaving an oil slick 32 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide.

Rescue operations continued all night for two missing men from the 36-strong crew.

South African Radio said an air force reconnaissance aircraft was due to take off shortly to find out where the slick was heading.

Johan Combrink, a weather forecaster at Cape Town airport, told Reuters he hoped a 10-knot southeasterly wind would str-

engthen and, along with sea currents, steer the oil away from the Cape's beaches and rich fishing grounds.

"I think it will grow stronger, but not at this stage. It could start picking up tonight or tomorrow morning," he said.

A spokesman for Safmarine, which is supervising salvage efforts, said the supertanker was believed to have been carrying 250,000 tons of crude. It could pose as big a pollution threat as that caused by the Amoco Cadiz which devastated the French coast in 1978 in the world's worst tanker pollution disaster.

The incident has already caused heavy financial damage.

Farmers in the Western Cape have complained that "black oily rain" from smoke given off by the burning vessel had covered wheat crops and freshly-shorn sheep.

Cheysson leaves Cuba

HAVANA (R) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson left Cuba for Paris Saturday night after a three-day official visit during which he held extensive talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro and other top Cuban officials.

Dr. Castro, Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca saw Mr. Cheysson off at the airport.

At a news conference before his departure, Mr. Cheysson said his talks with Cuban leaders reaffirmed that the two nations agreed on the need for a negotiated, political settlement of the Central American crisis.

Both nations have publicly stated their support for the Cancun declaration and the work of the "Contadora four" (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia) aimed at bringing about a peaceful, negotiated settlement in the region.

In an earlier impromptu interview with French journalists at a reception for Mr. Cheysson, Dr. Castro said that while Cuba sup-

ported the Cancun declaration it also believed that the problem of El Salvador must be included in any general peace plan for the region.

At his press conference, Mr. Cheysson said that France also believed there could be no peace settlement in the region without taking El Salvador into account. He reaffirmed his government's adherence to a French-Mexican declaration calling for talks between the government of El Salvador and the opposition groups in the country.

Mr. Cheysson implicitly criticised the presence of U.S. naval forces off the Central American coast.

Mr. Cheysson said he had no reason to doubt the Cubans' affirmation that they want peace in the region.

Mr. Cheysson said France was not now shipping arms to Nicaragua. He said that an 18-month, \$18-million agreement for arms shipments had run out and that the Nicaraguans had not asked for a renewal.

Ortega has few illusions

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua has faith in the Contadora group's peace efforts but nonetheless "will prepare for the worst," junta leader Daniel Ortega said Saturday night.

Mr. Ortega made the statement to a group of international supporters of his government, called the committees of solidarity. Members of the committees come from the United States, Europe and elsewhere in Latin America.

Nicaragua has come under increasing economic and military pressure from the United States, which accuses Managua's leftist leaders of trying to export revolution throughout Central America.

The foreign ministers of the so-called Contadora group — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama — have held talks aimed at preventing war between Nicaragua and its U.S.-allied northern neighbour, Honduras. The group agreed to meet again this month after a session in July ended inconclusively.

Nicaragua last month marked the fourth anniversary of the revolution that ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Mr. Ortega said Saturday night that the Nicaraguans people were ready to defend the revolution.

Sub-continent rains kill at least 100, hit millions

DHAKA (R) — Heavy monsoon rains have started, sweeping the Indian sub-continent causing at least 100 deaths, damage to crops and hardship to millions of people, officials in the affected countries said.

The rain, which has built up steadily over the past three days, has caused most disruption in Bangladesh where the country's military ruler Lt. Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad Saturday called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the situation.

Monsoon deluges, which weather bureau officials expect to last for at least another two days, have extended from the Bay of Bengal, through Indian states surrounding Bangladesh, to Nepal, northern Pakistan and the Afghan capital Kabul.

Some areas have received record falls of 750 mm over the past three days.

Lt. Gen. Ershad called the cabinet meeting after a helicopter inspection of the worst-hit area around Bangladesh's main port of Chittagong on the Bay of Bengal.

Bangladesh state radio said Gen. Ershad ordered the immediate evacuation by boat of 200,000 people marooned in the district, where road and rail links to the capital have been cut for several days by the floods.

Bangladesh relief officials said 17 people died when a boat capsized in a swollen canal near the town of Netrokona north of Dhaka.

The officials said at least 30 people have died throughout the country so far but the figure could go higher when reports were received from isolated areas.

The Indian states of Bihar, west Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Orissa which surround Bangladesh have also been badly hit.

A Bihar state government spokesman said nearly two million people had been affected by landslides, flooded roads and other damage. The Ganges River was still rising and some villages would probably have to be evacuated.

In Tripura west of Bangladesh 19 people have drowned or been killed by collapsing buildings and the Indian Air Force (IAF) is dropping food supplies to isolated villages.

Tripura's Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty told reporters about 500,000 people had been affected by floods.

In Assam the Brahmaputra river was in flood with villagers fleeing to high ground while in Orissa fishermen have been ordered to stay in port for the next two days.

In Nepal authoritative sources said 30 people died in several villages in the foothills of the Himalayas last week when flash floods swept through their dwellings.

Nepalese officials said mountaineering was not affected because foreign climbing expeditions were banned until the end of the monsoon, usually in September.

Pakistan officials reported at least 23 deaths in the mountainous north in the past three days from rockslides and collapsing houses.

In neighbouring Afghanistan the country's state-run radio Kabul reported Saturday night that floods destroyed a dam near the capital, causing damage in and around the city.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Upper Volta coup cheers up Qadhafi

BEIRUT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has congratulated the leader of the coup in Upper Volta on the success of his "revolutionary uprising", the official Libyan news agency JANA reported. JANA said that coup leader Capt. Thomas Sankara telephoned Col. Qadhafi and told him the coup on Thursday had achieved total control of the West African country. In a despatch received in Beirut, JANA said Col. Qadhafi expressed "his highest esteem for the revolutionary action achieved by the people of Upper Volta". Capt. Sankara told a French radio interviewer on Friday that he was not a "paw" of the Libyan ruler.

Japanese fishermen allegedly harassed

TOKYO (R) — South Korean warships have fired on or threatened three more Japanese fishing boats in Tsushima Straits separating Japan from South Korea, the maritime safety agency said here Sunday. The incidents last Friday followed an earlier reported shooting at two Japanese fishing boats. South Korean warships fired on a third Japanese fishing boat and pointed their guns and searchlights at two other boats, the agency said. No injuries nor damage were reported by the fishing boats. Following a Japanese protest, the Seoul government Saturday apologised for the first incident which, it said, occurred during the hunt for a fleeing North Korean spy ship, the Japanese foreign ministry said.

Man shoots father as 'an act of love'

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — A man who shot his sick father in a nursing home as an act of love to end his suffering was convicted of attempted murder, Billy Ray Clore, 26, was found guilty of shooting his 63-year-old father Robert in the head on March 21 as he lay in a coma suffering from kidney failure and the effects of two heart attacks. The father died on April 2. The prosecution agreed to reduce the charge from murder to attempted murder when expert medical witnesses disagreed over whether the gunshot wound caused his death. Defence attorneys argued that his brain was already dead as a result of his illnesses.

65,000 vie for 1,000 unenviable jobs

NEW YORK (R) — The New York city sanitation department announced last month that it had 1,000 openings for refuse collectors. It received over 65,000 applications. The department plans to give tests to the applicants, many of whom are women. The city now has no women refuse collectors but it is changing the employment regulations to make it possible to hire them.

Hotels given strict 'services' list

JAKARTA (R) — Local authorities in Banda Aceh in Indonesia's staunchest Muslim provinces have warned hotels against supplying women and alcohol for their guests, the official Antara news agency reported. Baharuddin Yahya, mayor of the town in north Sumatra, said that from now on hotels must provide praying mats and copies of the Holy Koran in each room. He said these would have a strong influence against abuse of hotel facilities. Earlier Yahya has banned men from Thantown's six beauty parlors after their female staff began catering for male customers. The salons now display "women only" signs on their doors.

Dhaka cracks down on prostitution

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh will impose the death penalty for people who force young girls into prostitution, military ruler Lt. Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad said. Gen. Ershad also said people who persecuted women would face imprisonment for life. "We must make an all-out effort to protect the honour of women in our society if we are to uphold our Islamic ideals," he told a meeting of teachers and students.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 6
 ♥ 10 3 2
 ♦ K Q 9 5
 ♣ J 10 3 2

WEST
 ♠ 5
 ♥ K 8 4
 ♦ A 10 8 6 2
 ♣ 9 8 6

EAST
 ♠ J 10 9 7 4 3 2
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ Void
 ♣ A Q 7 5

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 8
 ♥ A Q J 6
 ♦ J 7 4 3
 ♣ K 4

The bidding:
 West North East South
 Pass Pass 3 ♦ 3 NT
 Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Five of ♠.

Tomorrow is the 78th birthday of Richard L. Frey, chairman of the Goren Editorial Board, Editor Emeritus of the ACBL Bulletin, Life Master #3 and one of the world's great player writers. After suffering a mild stroke, at the end of last year, Frey is back at the typewriter — and the bridge table.

Purists might quibble with

Frey's three spade preempt because of his ace outside the trump suit and the void. But chances of game opposite a passed hand were remote, and the preempt might have made life difficult for the opponents.

The star of this hand is actually Frey's wife, Mabel. Like a good spouse, she dutifully led her singleton spade. Declarer won in dummy and Frey followed suit with the two. Declarer could not come to nine tricks without setting up both red suits, so at trick two he ran the ten of hearts to West's king.

Mindful of her partner's signal at the first trick, West shifted to the nine of clubs. Declarer carelessly played the ten from dummy, East won the ace and continued with a low club. West unblocked the eight!

West still had to gain the lead with the ace of diamonds. When she did, she persevered with the six of clubs, and the defenders took two more club tricks for a total of five — three clubs, and a trick in each red suit.